

St. Jerome Church

May Crowning
2020



**WAITING FOR PENTECOST
MAY 28, 2020**

The most common question I have received for weeks is, "Father, when will the church be opened?" I understand the question, but the truth is that buildings are not what make the church, rather people do. The real question is when will we be allowed to resume the sacramental life of the church? There are three things which we need to do to make this happen. The bishop has said it may be as early as June 3rd, but only if the three tasks have been completed and a fourth begun.

First, we need **A PLAN APPROVED** which meets the state, county, city and diocesan requirements. These will need to be posted on the church entrances and followed.

Second, we will need **A SUNDAY CHURCH SANITIZING TEAM** to prepare the church for the next mass. I am hopeful we can find volunteers who are willing to commit to a morning mass for this task... and hopefully to have a team for each mass.

Third, **USHERS, SACRISTANS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS WILL NEED SPECIAL UPDATED TRAINING TO HELP APPLY OUR APPROVED PLAN.** Some of our liturgical ministers do have health concerns and pre-existing conditions which may require them to step back. We will do what we have to do. We need people in good health, and willing spirits to be available to fulfill these responsibilities. I am most concerned about eucharistic ministers as they and the ushers have significant, and essential roles to play in interacting with the faithful. We need the names and contact information for the qualified and willing. (Please Roxanne at the office.) God will provide... but if you are a confirmed, practicing catholic... listen, as He may be calling you.

Fourth, we will need to educate our St. Jerome community. We will do our best to help prepare you for our upcoming opportunities for prayer and sacrament.

These need to happen BEFORE public masses resume here at St. Jerome. In theory, if everything goes perfectly (Does it ever?) could be done by June 3rd. But June 14th, Body and Blood of Christ Sunday is a more realistic goal to meet requirements, assemble the ministers and provide the necessary training.

Our Sunday Mass schedule will need to be adjusted to allow for cleaning the church after each mass. We are considering having masses at 7am, 9am, 11am and 5:30pm (parking-lot). Availability of priests is also a contributing factor so stay tuned.

California is putting a maximum capacity of 100 people including ministers and priests. Because of this limitation, the obligation to attend Sunday mass will continue to be dispensed. This is a blessing as people have the choice to attend or not. Alleluia! Our church can seat well over 1200 so we easily have the space to keep appropriate distancing. Books and papers will be removed from pews. Each mass will have a worship aid that we ask you to take with you.

For those more at risk I would suggest attending the Sunday evening 5:30pm parking-lot mass. You won't need to leave your car. Exposure to others will be minimal. You can mask if you like. Also, the sunlight UV-rays quickly destroy Covid-19. Our afternoon breeze makes even hot days pleasant. If you wish to receive communion, I will bring it to you in your car. We don't need to worry about the 100 person limit as this is an outdoor gathering... and we have parking for over 250 cars.

The Archbishop of Los Angeles wants our diocese to be leading, and setting prudent and practical example which is relatively safe and allows for the faithful to be fed and led.

By the way, the church was never closed. When two or three are gathered in Jesus' name the church is active and alive. Buildings to do this are nice. Places where the Blessed Sacrament and Sacred Oils are ready and available for use is important. A place where people can be baptized is essential. Yet even though these locations are good to have, it is the heart of Christians which remains the most important dwelling place for God.

Buildings on this earth come and go. After all, St. Jerome's first regular meeting place was a theater. Then it was in what we now call our gym. Then the softball field was sacrificed to be our current gathering place. But even if not a stone was left upon a stone, the church could still gather... in our domestic church at our homes, with a couple of close friends praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet or spending time in adoration with the real presence of our Lord in our parking-lot or in doing service for others.

Everything comes with some risk: getting in a car, taking medicine, getting out of bed, choosing a partner for marriage or eating Fr. Bill's cooking. Some risks are reasonable. (Don't eat Fr. Bill's cooking or jump out of a plane without a parachute.) And if Moses waited until there was no risk in crossing the Red Sea... the Jewish people would still be slaves in Egypt.

Please use wisdom and good sense. If you have conditions such as diabetes, or other pre-existing conditions, please do not put yourself at risk by volunteering. More details will follow. Thank you for your support and prayers.

5550 Thornburn Street
WWW.STJEROMELAX.ORG

Los Angeles, CA 90045
310-348-8212

Although we are required to keep our church building closed as non-essential, I would like to mention opportunities available to our parish family to nurture our soul and feed our spirit.

1. **Drive-in-Adoration:** The Blessed Sacrament is exposed from **8am to 3:15pm daily**. 8am mass occurs most days there except on Friday and Sunday. Communion is not available but you get to participate in the penitential rite and the closing blessing and dismissal which do give the opportunity for forgiveness of venial sins.

2. **The Rosary Garden:** facing Thornburn Street, this is a good place just to stop and pray especially during Mary's special month of May... and each Our Father is more than six feet away.

3. **Zoom Mass** is each day at 8am except for Friday and Sunday. On Sunday mass is set for 5:30pm.
(Meeting ID: **661-442-999**. Password: **162-954**)

4. On **Wednesday's** at **5:30pm** is **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena** (Meeting ID: **683-511-284**. Password: **805-612**). Praying the rosary daily and joining in the Novena is a powerful means for us to help us receive blessings from our Blessed Mother.

5. Our **Friday Evening Prayer Group** meets at **7pm**. This charismatic group continues to pray for us and invites all to be open to the Spirit of Jesus allowing themselves to be refreshed and renewed. (Meeting ID: **636-777-370**. Password: **365-482**).

The Archbishop has asked us on **Pentecost Sunday** to bring **NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS** to help support food pantries which are responding to the needs of our brothers and sisters. Some of our young adults and teen leaders will be at the doorway of the hall from 9am to 3pm this Sunday to receive your food items. You need not leave your car. You may wish to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament in the parking-lot before you leave.

Checks written to St. Jerome with the memo: LAX will also be accepted in the donation box. **Monies raised will go to LAX Food Pantry.**

ANOINTING OF THE SICK call 424-543-4681 and leave a message. Danger of death calls get priority.

FININCIAL ASSISTANCE may be available for parishioners through the Cardinal Macintyre Fund. Contact Juanita for the documentation and bills which parishioners need to get this one time grant.

I do need your help. The earliest we will have public mass is June 3rd. Our parish needs your assistance. Without Sunday services our income is minimal yet bills continue to arrive. Please mail in your Sunday donation or donate to our parish at our website. Thank you for your generosity.
(www.stjeromelax.org)

Anyone can call the Hearts to Serve Hotline ministry at 855 423-6780, from 8am—5pm daily and volunteers will connect callers with local resources for food and household necessities. Drivers are available to deliver supplies to homes and parish-based food pantries. They will also work to help those who have lost their jobs or find themselves unable to pay for basic needs.

Hearts to Serve will provide critical human contact, including prayer, conversation, and resources for support.

Remember all those who work in healthcare, especially:

Mary Asoera	Josie Bennett	Dorothy Ikeri
Nancy Wagas	Tess Abraham	Leslie Flores
Dinobi Nwosu	George Ann Callinan	Monica Pavon
Liz Ortega	Alisa Moniayo	Virginia Waters
	Christina Olumba	

Please do send us the names of those involved in healthcare during these challenging days. (rshaw@stjeromewestchester.org)

Please Pray for the Sick

Hector G. Amezcua	Mrytle Bijole
Jamie Brazile	Vincent Butt
Hazel Chu	Rorrie de la Vega
Xavier Galindo	Perdana Tamzil
Mark Gauerke	Anne Gingras
Michelle Gonzalez	Dindo Honrado
Monique Isaac	John Marcello
John McCreary	Caroline Metz
Nina Mueller	Wiley Pugh
Eileen Reyes	Maria Ross
Betty Spindler	Vilma Matolek
Gary Steed	Natalie Tun
Jimmy Glenn	Joan Flynn
Cynthia Flores Zapata	Jesus Garber
Kenneth Chua	Silva Olumba
Celestius Ibe	Viola Maldonado
Willy Maldonado	Carlos Galo

Deceased

Condolences are extended to the family and friends

Eduardo Mateo

(Godfather of Nathan Zapata)

David Greenlee

(school parent and husband of Joanne Belgarde)

Margarita Edwards

(Mother of Susan Black)

May they rest in peace



Our Pastor: Fr. Bill Bolton 424-543-4681

Business Manager: Juanita Rivera-Wiemken 310 348-8212

For calendar request & statements email: juanitarw@gmail.com

Secretary/Bulletin Editor: Roxanne Shaw 310 348-8212
rshaw@stjeromewestchester.org